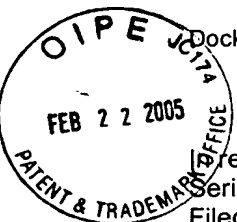


JPW



Docket No. 116741-00214

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of: Jose Tamez-Pena
Serial No: 10/716,934
Filed: November 20, 2003
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC EXTRACTION OF LOAD-BEARING
REGIONS OF THE CARTILAGE AND MEASUREMENT OF BIOMARKERS

GAU: 3737
Confirmation No. 6792
Examiner: UNASSIGNED

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- ☒ The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- ☐ Attached is a copy of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. These documents are listed on form PTO-1449, also attached.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the subject patent application.
- ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

PETITION

- ☐ Applicant(s) hereby request consideration of the attached information. A check is attached in the amount of the Petition fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1).

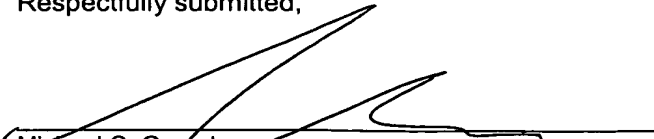
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

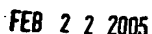
- ☒ Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 23-2185. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Complete if Known

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| Application Number | 10/716,934 |
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| Filing Date | November 20, 2003 |
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| First Named Inventor | Jose Tamez-Pena, et al. |
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| Art Unit | 3737 |
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| Examiner Name | Unassigned |
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| Attorney Docket Number | 116741-00214 |
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | 01 | WO 03/009214 | 01-30-03 | Tamez-Pena, et al. | | |
| | 02 | WO 03/012724 | 02-13-03 | Totterman, et al. | | |
| | 03 | WO 03/021524 | 03-13-03 | Totterman, et al. | | |
| | 04 | WO 03/025837 | 03-27-03 | Totterman, et al. | | |
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| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and¹by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.